MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The President in his address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day this year indicated the need for mobilisiag additional resources for national development. He felt that raising additional resources through the budget should be supplemented by voluntary contributions from the citizens. He expressed the view that Government may-constitute a National Reconstruction Fund and accept voluntary contributions for the purpose of sustaining development activities.

Annual plan outlay for Bihar

854. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annual Plan (1991-92) tor Bihar has been finalised-

(b) if so, the outlay and other broad features thereof; and

(c) the contemplated rats of industrial and agricultural growth and the targets fixed for achievement thereof in different areas of development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRl KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Outlay for the Annual Plan (1991-92) of Bihar has been fixed at Rs. 2251 crores. Broad features of the plan are among other things emphasis on Irrigation and Flood Control Energy, development of rural areas and human resources.

(c) Targets fixed for the agriculture sector is given in the enclosed statement. Similar information for other sectors is not available. *[See* Appendix CLVII, An-nexure No. 21]

Negative returns in Cement Industry

855. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cement industry has been (registering negative returns year after year;

(b) if so, what was the net return earned by the Cement industry during 1988-89, 1980-90 and 1990-91; and

(c) what steps are contemplated by Government to make the industry viable enough to enable it to play its desired role since cement is a basic item essential for economic and social development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA); (a) and (b) No •study has been conducted by the Government about the net returns earned by the cement industry during 1988-89, 1989-90 *&* 1990-91. However, as per RBI reports, the post-tax returns on net-worth of cement industry was (—) 11.3 per cent during 1988-89.

(c) Proposals for increasing the installed capacity of cement are being liberally approved. Through continuous monitoring it is also ensured that infrastruc-tural support in terms of coal, power and railway wagons is being adequately provided for maximisation of production and fuller capacity utilisation.

International seminar on cement and building materials organised by NCCBM

856. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHADRA-KA.NT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether at the third international seminar on Cement and building mater ials organised by National Council for Cement and Building Materials on the 21st January, 1991, it was observed that the recent increase in cement price was disproportionate to the increase in costs of imports;

(b) if so, what steps were suggested to reduce the prices of cement; and Govern-ment's response thereto; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to bring down the cement prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) In the third International Seminar, mention was made of the rising trend of cement prices.